

Message Text

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62

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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BANGKOK FOR RED

E.O.11652: N/A

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SUBJ: ECA - THIRD CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS, NAIROBI, FEB. 24-28,

1975

1. AT CONCLUSION OF ECA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE NEAR MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 28, ALGERIAN DELEGATION HAD ACHIEVED ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVES. THESE INCLUDED FORWARD MOMENTUM WITH RESPECT TO DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF DAKAR CONFERENCE. EFFECT IS TO VIRTUALLY SOLIDIFY AFRICAN COMMITMENT ON THESE KEY ISSUES WELL BEFORE OPENING OF 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA. ALGERIA OBTAINED ACTIVE AND ARTICULATE SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITIONS FROM SIERRA LEONE AND TANZANIA AND LESS ABLE BUT RATHER VIGOROUS EFFORTS BY MALI, LIBYA, GABON, TUNISIA AND GHANA. ONLY NIGERIA AND KENYA REPRESENTED A MORE MODERATE POINT OF VIEW WHILE THE BALANCE OF THE DELEGATIONS PLAYED VERY MINOR OR NONEXISTENT ROLES DURING THE DEBATES.

2. DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. CONFERENCE ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY SIERRA LEONE AND ALGERIA (IN PREFERENCE TO SOMEWHAT WEAKER RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY DRAFTING COMMITTEE) EXPRESSING STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF PROGRAM OF ACTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR, INTER ALIA: (A) PROMOTION OF COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO RECOVERY, EXPLOITATION, DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES; (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINK BETWEEN PRICES OF EXPORTS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND PRICES OF THEIR IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; (C) ESTABLISHMENT AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATIONS; AND (D) FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ALL PHASES OF DECISION-MAKING FOR THE FORMULATION OF AN EQUITABLE AND DURABLE WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT.

3. DAKAR CONFERENCE. RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY ALGERIA AND APPROVED BY CONFERENCE STRONGLY ENDORSES RESULTS OF THE DAKAR CONFERENCE AND MANDATES SPECIFIC MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE DAKAR DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION, INCLUDING INTER ALIA:(C) "MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE" FROM ECA TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNING RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS ON THE BASIS OF A UNIFIED APPROACH; (B) ECA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"ASSISTANCE" TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS OF SAME COMMODITIES SO AS TO SET UP APPROPRIATE PRODUCER-EXPORTER ASSOCIATIONS; (C) A "CONTINUOUS WATCH" BY ECA ON THE EXPORT AND IMPORT PRICES OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES SO AS TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE MATTER OF UNFAVORABLE TERMS OF TRADE BY HELPING TO DEVISE AND SUPPLY AN INDEXING SYSTEM IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH UNCTAD; AND (D) "ACTIVE SUPPORT" BY ECA TO ANY COUNTRY EXERCISING ITS

SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISIONS OF THE UNGA AND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES.

4. OTHER CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED AND STRONGLY BACKED BY ALGERIANS. ONE SUCH RESOLUTION ENDORSED THE RESULTS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN ALGIERS (FEB 15-18) FOR THE FORTHCOMING UNIDO CONFERENCE IN LIMA. ANOTHER, ON INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE, REQUESTS THE ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO MAKE A GLOBAL STUDY OF THE TRADE POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES AND TO FOLLOW UP CLOSELY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE DAKAR CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO SET UP A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM.

5. OAU-ECA RELATIONSHIP. THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSED DURING THE CONFERENCE. THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION CALLED FOR, INTER ALIA, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY "TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL ENABLE ECA TO FUNCTION AS AN AGENCY OF OAU IN THE EXAMINATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND IN THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMS TO COPE WITH THESE PROBLEMS." AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS OF THIS RESOLUTION, ALGERIA AND TANZANIA, DECIDED TO REDUCE THE RESOLUTION TO A STUDY OF THE OBSTACLES INVOLVED IN EFFECTING GREATER OAU POLICY CONTROL OVER ECA ACTIVITIES. EVEN SO, NIGERIA, ZAIRE, UGANDA, SOMALIA AND OTHER DELEGATIONS OBJECTED, MAINLY ON GROUNDS THAT SUCH A STUDY WOULD BE A WASTE OF SECRETARIAT'S TIME IN VIEW OF LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER WHICH ECA WAS ESTABLISHED. GARDINER, IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN COMPROMISE, SUGGESTED AN AMENDMENT WHICH TOOK THESE DIFFICULTIES INTO ACCOUNT. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED WAS ACCEPTED EXCEPT FOR NIGERIA, UGANDA, AND ZAIRE, WHICH RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS. COMMENT: DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE THE PROPONENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(ALGERIA) OF THIS RESOLUTION FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR PLACING ECA DIRECTLY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE OAU SO THAT THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA WOULD BECOME THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF AFRICA. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE SUPPORTERS OF THIS VIEW WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT ALONG THESE LINES NOT ONLY FOR ECA BUT ALSO FOR OTHER UN AGENCIES OPERATING IN AFRICA. END COMMENT.

6. EFFECT ON COMMISSION'S PROGRAM OF WORK. MOST DRAFT RESOLUTIONS CALLED FOR NEW COMMISSION STUDIES TO BE SUBMITTED NEXT PLENARY SESSION (1977), BUT THE GENERAL SENSE OF URGENCY AMONG AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TO IMPLEMENT NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER CAUSED FINAL RESOLUTIONS TO REQUIRE STUDIES TO BE REPORTED INSTEAD TO SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF COMMISSION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IN USDEL CONVERSATIONS WITH GARDINER, HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT SUCH

RESOLUTIONS, INVOLVING SPECIAL MEASURES, PROGRAMS AND ALTERATION OF ECA RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, IN ACTUALITY WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON COMMISSION'S DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM OF WORK, FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ULTIMATELY TO ECOSOC AND 5TH COMMITTEE FOR STRUCTURAL AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION.

7. OTHER LESS SIGNIFICANT ISSUES RAISED IN DEBATE AND GENERAL STATEMENTS. (A) LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES: AFTER MUCH HAGGLING (LED BY BURUNDI) FOR BETTER TREATMENT, I.E., TARIFF-FREE TRANSIT OF GOODS TO AND FROM COASTAL PORTS, RESOLUTION CALLED FOR COMMISSION TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND MEASURES FOR IMPROVING FACILITIES FOR LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES AND REAFFIRMATION OF UNGA RESOLUTIONS UPHOLDING PRINCIPLE OF OPEN ACCESS TO SEA WITHIN CONTEXT OF INDIVIDUALLY NEGOTIATED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. (B) AFRICANIZATION OF SECRETARIAT AND STAFF TRAINING: MORE MILITANT DELS (ON THIS ISSUE), ESPECIALLY ZAIRE, CALLED FOR INTENSIFICATION OF EFFORTS TO COMPLETELY AFRICANIZE SECRETARIAT AND FOR MASSIVE RECRUITMENT AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OF YOUNG AFRICANS. AFTER SOBERING STATEMENT BY GARDINER ON LIMITATION OF FUNDS AND QUALIFIED APPLICANTS, COMPROMISE RESOLUTION NOTED PAST EFFECTIVE EFFORTS OF COMMISSION TO AFRICANIZE SECRETARIAT (WHICH ALREADY HAS ACHIEVED 75 PERCENT AFRICAN STAFF). (C) ARABIC TO BE THIRD OFFICIAL COMMISSION LANGUAGE: IN KEEPING WITH UNGA ACCEPTANCE OF ARABIC AS UN WORKING LANGUAGE AND DESPITE HORRENDOUS COST IMPLICATIONS, SECRETARIAT WILL REQUEST APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION AND BUDGET INCREASE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDITION OF ARABIC AS THIRD OFFICIAL WORKING LANGUAGE OF COMMISSION.

8. NIGERIAN OFFER ON PETROLEUM. DURING NIGERIAN DEL GENERAL STATEMENT, OFFER OF CONCESSIONARY SALE PETROLEUM MADE TO OTHER AFRICAN LDCS ON CONDITION RECIPIENT LDCS HAVE OR DEVELOP REFINING CAPACITY AND DO NOT RE-EXPORT REFINED PRODUCTS.

9. CONFERENCE CLOSED WITH SPECIAL COMMENDATION OF KENYAN HOSPITALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF CONFERENCE FACILITIES, AND THE DESIGNATION OF KINSHASA AS LOCATION FOR NEXT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN FEBRUARY 1977

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER AFRICAN POSTS.
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